REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain pending herein. Claim 10 has been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

February 13, 2002

Date

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Attachment: Claim Mark-ups

Attorney Docket No. SCHN:018

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

one of the previous claims], characterised in that it comprises an XML handler Hndlr (20) in non-volatile memory, dialoguing through notifications firstly with a tree structure management module (30) representative of the automation application expressed in the single, hierarchised and object oriented language, and also with a plurality of database managers (Mng1, Mng2, ...), each manager being specific to part of the automation application stored in one of the databases (Db1, Db2, ...).